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NORTH Vietnam

HEAVY U.S. LOSSES:

53

**PLANES DOWNED
IN 4 DAYS**

**MANY AMERICAN
PILOTS CAPTURED**

One of the 12 U.S. planes downed
over Hanoi on Nov. 19, 1967



**VIETNAM
COURIER**

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SOUTH Vietnam

NEW SUCCESSES OF THE P.L.A.F.

**DAK TO : 1,160 Enemy Soldiers Put out of Action
in 3 Days (Nov. 17-19)**

**MY THO : A Battalion of U.S. Infantry Division 9
Wiped Out 85Km Southwest of Saigon (Nov. 17)**

**TAN AN: A Battalion of Division 25 and a Com-
pany of Militiamen of the Puppet Army Routed 35Km
South of Saigon (Night of Nov. 11)**

**RACH GIA: A Battalion of Puppet Division 9 Put
out of Action at Xoai
Xien (Night of Nov. 9)**

**LAM DONG: Two
Companies, Two Pla-
toons, a Motorized Unit,
a 105mm-Gun Platoon
and a "Civil Guard"
Platoon Wiped Out 7Km
from Djiring (Nov. 12)**

**ANSWERS OF PRIME MINISTER
PHAM VAN DONG
TO QUESTIONS PUT BY OLIVIER TODD,
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE FRENCH PAPER LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR**

DURING his recent stay in Viet Nam, a French journalist, Mr. Olivier Todd, special correspondent of *Le Nouvel Observateur* had an interview with Premier Pham Van Dong. Questions and answers are as follows:

Question — Mr. Prime Minister, what do you think of the resumption of escalation in Hanoi itself?

Answer — We foresaw it. We also foresaw other attacks. When U.S. aircraft come back, they will be well received.

Q — What is your reaction to Mr. Goldberg's latest proposition to bring the problem of the Viet Nam war before the U.N.O.?

A — We have always declared that the U.N.O. has nothing to do with the Viet Nam affair.

Q — What is the fundamental reason for this attitude?

A — We regard this body as a tool in the hands of the U.S.

Q — Does the D.R.V.N. government still stick to the four points you put forward on April 8, 1965?

A — Yes.

Q — Why? The declaration by Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh, Foreign Minister of the D.R.V.N., on Jan. 28, 1967, has triggered off much speculation in European and American political circles on the meaning which should be given the sentence: "If the U.S. really wants conversation, it must first of all put an unconditional end to the bombing and all other war acts against the D.R.V.N." There has been tentative interpretation of the word "unconditional." How should it be construed?

A — This demand takes on its full meaning, its full value, when confronted with the threats, pressure and blackmail from the U.S. By all means it is trying to impose unacceptable conditions on us.

It has waged an unjust, criminal war on the D.R.V.N. This war has aroused deep indignation among almost all peoples of the world. Let the U.S. put an unconditional end to this war. No, we won't accept any conditions of any kind, in any form.

The Vietnamese people are a proud people. They will never negotiate under the bombs or threats of bombing.

Q — What form should an "unconditional end" take?

A — What form could this "unconditional end" take? This question has its importance and must be carefully considered in due time. In any event, it must be clear, definite, unequivocal.

Q — Considering eventual negotiations, why do you stick so strictly to the "four points"?

(Continued page 2)

HEAVY U.S. LOSSES IN NORTH VIET NAM: 53 PLANES DOWNED IN 4 DAYS

NOVEMBER 17-20, 1967

VALIANT AND RESOURCEFUL DEFENDERS OF HANOI

NOVEMBER 17, 1967. The sky over the capital was cloudless. At 08.00 hours, many flights of F-4's taking off from Thailand made a pass over the southern end of the city then from the southeast turned up for an attack run. Moments later, other Thunderchiefs from the northwest roared in. They resorted to the same old tricks. Many of them swooped down in a feint to draw our fire so that others could fly low and release rockets and bombs.

Nguyen Van Tho, deputy commander of a battery, calmly told his men, "Stick to our operational plan."

In perfect harmony, A-A guns of all caliber, sited around the city opened up, intercepting the air intruders at various altitudes. Two enemy planes burst into flames. Others quickly took evasive actions.

The enemy changed tactics. This time they bumped against our missiles. Hardly had one of them fired a rocket when our missile whistled skyward and cut its flight short.

11.00 hours. Enemy planes appeared again. They also made a feint to enable the strike to operate. They also cruised in wide circles then nose-dived to fire rockets and drop bombs. A new trick was played: a flight of enemy planes put on speed and wheeled down to confuse our gunners while another flight released bombs. Different enemy manoeuvres were countered in different ways. One after another, the air marauders crashed in flames amidst cheers of Hanoians.

A day of fierce fighting ended: 10 enemy planes had bitten the dust.

On Nov. 19, mist hung over Hanoi. News about fresh victories in Hai Phong just came in when enemy planes arrived. They sneaked into clouds and dropped radar disturbing objects.

Hoang Bat, leader of a missile unit, urged his men to keep their eyes skinned.

Nguyen Quang Hung, the missile guiding officer who had been cooped up for having knocked out the 2,000th U.S. plane over the North right in Hanoi's sky, calmly waited.

The first missile of the day whizzed up, followed by a din of explosions coming from other missile and A-A units; two enemy planes fell.

1.58 hours. The defenders of Hanoi swung into action again. The enemy came in strength but met with a stronger rebuff. One plane which looked the size of an egg got a deadly accurate hit and came apart in three pieces. Another plane exploded and immediately tumbled into a ball of cloud. Moments later, bits of metal were seen coming down. As for American pilots, some ejected from flaming planes, others suddenly emerged out of the clouds and slowly landed.

The battle continued until late in the afternoon. All streets were brightly lit again and the whole city came out to greet the downing of 12 enemy planes in a single day, the 12th being also the 20th kill over the capital.

AT FOOD PROCESSING FACTORY T.

ON Nov. 17 and Nov. 19, every time air intruders swooped down to strike at the factory, its self-defence corps opened up fiercely. The detachment led by the young engineer, Ngoy Huy Duc, sent up a particularly intense fire. At first the platoon command did not allow him to take part in the fighting. Finally it had to agree in view of the engineer's insistence, "I should have been on duty on Oct. 27. But Nguyen Dan Phien volunteered to replace me so that I could move my child into safety. That day Phien died because of me. You should not feel the need to fight to avenge him!"

Engineer Ngoy Huy Duc, the gunner No 1 of the factory, was given satisfaction. Giving vent to his hatred, he fired in co-ordination with other defenders of the capital who brought down 22 enemy planes in 2 days.

Between two battles, groups of technicians and workers of Factory T. were busy carrying the factory's products out.

Some used bicycles, others shoulder poles. Mrs. Nguyen Thi Yen, the Factory's manager, also joined the carrier line, two heavy loads fastened to her bicycle. The vice-manager, Tri, and some workers pulled a cart-load of goods. In this job, virtually every worker of

And that night in the moonlight, the co-op farmers finished threshing the rice freshly brought in. Early the next morning, cart-loads of fresh vegetables from Thanh Mai were delivered to various state-run stores to supply the local armed forces and people busy preparing for a new combat.

Uncles Gia and Kenh of the farm tool making team also played their part. U.S.

wounded, pedicab-driver Nguyen Van Chan led his colleagues from a co-op in the district to move them to hospital.

The fire which erupted at blocks 60, 64 and 65 was quickly put down. Medical care was immediately given to the wounded. In this area, policeman Khuyen rescued Miss Thanh from a cave-in shelter. Miss Pham Thi Vinh,

TWO DAYS OF BRILLIANT VICTORIES IN HANOI

the factory was assisted by husbands, wives, sweethearts or eldest sons or daughters who all worked for the factory with means of transport at their disposal.

Although the Factory had been hit by the enemy, no one liked to see it stop functioning, even for a day.

INHABITANTS OF THANH MAI HAMLET

THROUGH loudspeakers, an instruction came out, calling on the youth and militiamen to return to the hamlet to clear the aftermaths of the enemy raid, and urging the co-op farmers to resume their routine work. Thanh Mai hamlet is next to Mo market, in the city's centre.

U.S. demolition and steel-pellet bombs and rockets killed or wounded a number of old people and children and destroyed many houses. Harvesting was in full swing. To suspend it and return home not for the bombing aftermaths! The inhabitants of Thanh Mai chose to act on the instructions of the village administration and militia command and the management board of the co-op.

That afternoon, teams of harvesters went to the ricefields earlier than usual.

bombs cut off the wire on the local public address system. Between two waves of enemy attacks, they quickly recommenced various lines. They did not faint from exhaustion after having rescued 10 people. She came to five minutes later and continued her work, saving the people's property and combating the fire.

EVERYBODY DOES EMERGENCY RESCUE WORK

LOCK 63 of Hai Ba Trung district was hit by many U.S. demolition and steel-pellet bombs and rockets. Policeman Nguyen Hien Pha immediately arrived at the scene with all his squad.

In the midst of bomb smoke, these policemen together with young volunteers set out to rescue the wounded. Policeman Ngoy Dien carried a wounded child on his back to a medical station. Delayed-action steel-pellet bombs were gathered to clear the way for civil defence workers to take part in relief work.

Upon learning that there were many

At Mai Huong hospital, emergency rescue work was even more intense. Medical attendants and nurses of various departments concentrated their efforts on saving the lives of victims. From the woman doctor Thai Lan Thu and the assistant physician Nguyen Ngoc Khanh to nurses and other hospital attendants, all worked with might and main though enemy planes were still roaring overhead. Although he was informed that his mother-in-law had been killed by the Yankees, the hospital attendant, Mai, stayed on in his combat position. The nurse, Tri, did likewise although she learned that her child was wounded and her house destroyed by fire. In only half an hour, diagnostic and emergency rescue work was finished and the wounded were handed over to various departments for further treatment.



Defending Hanoi, A.A. Company No 4, a "Unit Determined To Win," was striking at U.S. planes (Nov. 17, 1967)

MADELINE RIFFAUD

Up to Nov. 25, 1967

2,600 Will Hanoi Burn?

U.S. PLANES WERE DOWNED OVER NORTH VIET NAM

Over the last few days, the Paris Press has carried many articles condemning the crimes committed by the Americans by resorting to steel-pellet bombs against Hanoians.

L'HUMANITE of October 30 published an article by Madeleine Riffaud praising the courage displayed by the Hanoi armed forces and people in their victorious battles against U.S. air raids. Following are excerpts from this article:

SINCE October 24, Hanoi has been confronting the bombers, day and night, with its missiles, its rifles, its cannons and its MiG's. It has successfully countered the most savage destructive and exterminating raids ever conducted by the U.S. air force against the capital of the D.R.V.N. since the beginning of the escalation.

Will Hanoi burn? Knowing by experience the short-sighted cruelty of U.S. imperialism, every Vietnamese has been calmly expecting for months this eventuality.

For five days, Hanoi, the "City of the Dragon" as it was called in the days of yore, fought. Sometimes against one hundred planes striking at a time, against rockets, pressure bombs and delayed-action steel-pellet bombs, against what American science has invented to exterminate and demoralize. Striking a blow with its paws, the Dragon sent 33 U.S. planes biting the dust in 5 days.

THAT was the reply of Hanoi rising up in the October wind, defending its socialism at this most distant outpost with missiles and MiG's and also with the blood of its men, women and youngsters, all turned into combat-

ants. That was Hanoi's riposte to the criminals who, defeated militarily and politically, have made genocide a means of pressure between nations. Meanwhile, the fighters of the N.F.L. are holding the initiative everywhere and acting on the offensive, even at the gates of Saigon, proving more and more that the Vietnamese people are capable of beating an aggressive army of over one million U.S. puppet and satellite troops. Such was the Vietnamese riposte to Pentagonian provocateurs who dared bombard the capital of an independent state, a socialist country, the day after the demonstrations during which millions of people in the world and in the U.S. itself demanded an immediate end to U.S. aggression.

THE Pentagon perseveres and is getting bogged down in mistakes and crimes. It is entitled to ask this question: "Will the world burn?" "Where will the mad men stop in their homicidal flight?" The bombings of Hanoi are a new, grave challenge hurled by U.S. imperialism at every human being, at all people who desire to live in freedom and peace, to live a life worthy of men. Let us take up this challenge, with honour, by the side of those who transplant under the napalm, of teachers and pupils in underground classrooms, of fighting physicians in the scorched jungle, of the youth of Hanoi and Hai Phong whose time is taken by their machines and their guns, and make guitars out of scraps of fighter-bombers,

THE NORTH IS RESOLVED TO FIGHT AND TO WIN

53 U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED IN 4 DAYS (NOVEMBER 17-20)

ON November 17, 1967, many flights of Thai-land and carrier-based U.S. aircraft conducted raids over Hanoi. The local armed forces and people dealt them a well-deserved blow: 10 planes were grounded and many pilots captured.

On the same day, with conventional infantry weapons, militiamen of Khao Chau district, Hung Yen province, knocked out another plane. Meanwhile 2 more planes were shot down over Ha Nam and Quang Binh provinces.

On November 18, the North Vietnamese armed forces and people bagged another 11 enemy planes: Phu Tho, Thanh Hoa, Vinh Phuc and Hai Phong each brought down 2, and Quang Binh and Hai Tay one each.

On November 19, U.S. air marauders again launched massive attacks on Hanoi. The local armed forces and people sent 12 of them biting the dust. Hai Phong also scored 4 kills. Militiamen of Gioi Tay district, Nam Ha province, shot down one A-4 with conventional infantry weapons, and Thanh Hoa downed one RB-66 electronic reconnaissance plane.

On November 20, Hai Phong shot down 3 planes, Hanoi 2, Phu Tho 2, and Thanh Hoa, Quang Ninh, Vinh Phuc, Lang Son and Vinh Linh one each.

Countering Johnson's 4-day "maximum pressure," the North Vietnamese armed forces and people shot down 53 U.S. aircraft, captured many U.S. pilots.



EIGHT AMERICAN PILOTS AMONG THOSE NEWLY DOWNED

Left: — Edward B. Burdett, U.S.A.F. colonel, U.S. tactical wing commander from Korat (Thailand). — John Peter Flynn, U.S.A.F. colonel, deputy commander.

Right (left to right, top to bottom):

Wilson Denver Key, U.S. Navy senior lieutenant — Claude Douglas Clower, U.S. Navy lieutenant-commander — Theodore Gerhard Sier, U.S. Navy lieutenant junior grade — Paul Henry Schultz, U.S. Navy lieutenant-commander — James E. Teague, U.S. Navy lieutenant junior grade — Walter O. Estes II, U.S. Navy lieutenant junior grade.



SOUTH VIETNAM **NEW SUCCESSES OF THE P.L.A.F.**

100

Years	Provinces subject to chemical sprays	Area (in hectares)	Killed	Poisoned
1961	6	500		
1964	26	700,000	400	140,000
1966	32	876,000	462	258,000
1967 (up to June)	21	474,000	235	139,744
				(A great number of affected people have met with a slow

THE SOUTH VIET NAM N.F.L. ORDERS THE SUSPENSION OF MILITARY ATTACKS ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMING FESTIVALS

ALTHOUGH the South Vietnamese armed forces and people are winning big victories in Loc Ninh, Duc To, Phuoc Binh, My Tho, Ben Tre, Rach Gia, Binh Thuan, Quang Nam, Quang Tri, Thua Thien and other places, the Presidium of the C.C. of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. has ordered the suspension of military attacks for 3 days on the occasion of Christmas, for 3 days on the occasion of New Year's Day and for 7 days on the occasion of the Tet or Lunar New Year Festival. A statement from the Front's Presidium says:

"As in the previous years, prompted by its unchanging humanitarian policy and its respect for the time-honoured customs and habits of our nation and other countries and out of deep consideration for the legitimate feelings and aspirations of our people, of the people of the U.S. and its satellites, and of the majority of the puppet U.S. and satellite army-men, the Presidium of the C.C. of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. decides to suspend military attacks against puppet, U.S. and satellite troops.

"...Our people have always and consistently expressed deep attachment to humanitarianism because the goal of our struggle is nothing but a decent life, the rights of man, the right to shape our own destiny, the right to live in independence and freedom. Since the U.S. aggressors are very odious, brutal and perfidious by nature, all our people and their forces must be fully prepared, with a high spirit and an iron determination, to fight stubbornly and unrelentingly. Only by so doing can we win really big victories in the Winter-Spring campaign and advance to

wards complete success in the struggle of our entire nation against U.S. aggression, for national salvation."

SOUTH VIET NAM P.L.A.F. COMMAND'S ORDER

In strict implementation of the decision of the Presidium of the C.C. of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. for the suspension of military attacks on the occasion of Christmas, New Year's Day and the Tet Festival, the South Viet Nam P.L.A.F. Command orders:

1. All P.L.A.F. across South Viet Nam (comprising the main forces, the regional troops and the guerrillas and militia) to suspend military attacks:

— for 3 days on the occasion of Christmas from Zero hour on December 24, 1967, Indochina time (or 01.00 hour on Dec. 24, 1967, Saigon time) to Zero hour on Dec. 27, 1967, Indochina time (or 01.00 hour on Dec. 27, 1967, Saigon time);

— for 3 days on the occasion of New Year's Day from Zero hour on Dec. 30, 1967, Indochina time (or 01.00 hour on Dec. 30, 1967, Saigon time) to Zero hour on Jan. 2, 1968, Indochina time (or 01.00 hour on Jan. 2, 1968, Saigon time);

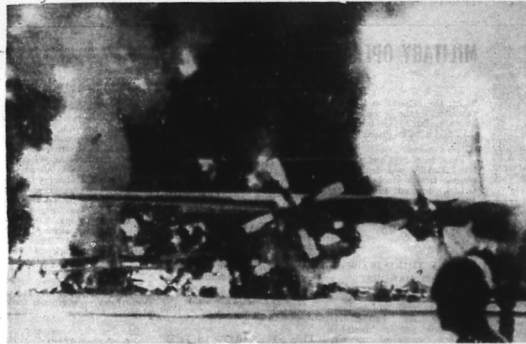
— and for 7 days on the occasion of the Tet or Lunar New Year Festival from Zero hour on Jan. 27, 1968, Indochina time (or 01.00 hour on Jan. 27, 1968, Saigon time) or the 28th of the 13th lunar month, to Zero hour on Feb. 3, 1968, Indochina time (or 01.00 hour on Feb. 3, 1968,

Saigon time) or the 5th of the first lunar month.

2. All P.L.A.F. have the responsibility to protect the people so that they can enjoy these festivals in security and joy, and to create conditions for army-men and the personnel of the Saigon puppet administration to go to the liberated areas, rejoin their families, pay tribute to their relatives. Troops of the U.S., those of its satellites and those of the Saigon puppet administration will be free to go to church and take part in festivities during Christmas, New Year's Day and the Tet, either at home or at public gatherings, provided that they go individually, not in groups, and do not carry weapons and intelligence devices.

3. During the enforcement of the N.F.L. order for suspension of military attacks, all military attacks by U.S., puppet and satellite troops against the South Viet Nam P.L.A.F. and people, including activities of aircraft and guns of various types, in whatever part of South Viet Nam, will be regarded as violations of the N.F.L. order and liable to punishment.

4. The P.L.A.F. throughout South Viet Nam must strictly observe the order for the suspension of military attacks in the period and the conditions as defined above. At the same time they must constantly increase their vigilance, deliver the retaliatory blows should the enemy violate the stipulations of this order, and resolutely punish those reactionary and cruel agents of the U.S. who dare disrupt the normal activities of the people on these festive occasions.



Duc To
airfield set
afire

southwest of Saigon) was cut off in 80 places, some of which became muddy flat fields of eight to ten metres long. Hundreds of road blocks were erected. Thousands of metres of telephone wire were cut off. All the bulldozers and rollers near An Hu township were destroyed. 7 M113 armoured cars were destroyed or damaged. Many posts were attacked, including an encampment of one battalion of puppet Division 7 at My Thien. On July 23 the highway was still cut off. Most of the U.S.-puppet force sent to clear it was put out of action along with 11 armoured cars.

Driven into the defensive, on July 25, the enemy made a probing thrust into Phu Phong village on the Mekong river, 17km west of My Tho. A big vessel was sunk and an American company wiped out by the guerrillas.

On July 26, 20 battalions (6 battalions of U.S. Infantry Divisions 9 and 25, 9 battalions of puppet Infantry Divisions 7 and 9, 2 battalions of Marines, 3 battalions of Rangers) and 4 squadrons of armoured cars attacked the north and south of Highway 4 with the support of over 300 war vessels, 100 planes and 32 heavy guns.

In the north, the secondary target of the raid, the My Tho army-men and people inflicted upon the enemy severe losses. In the south, which bore the brunt of the "sweep," they dealt the enemy heavier blows.

On the morning of July 29, a convoy of naval craft coming from the Mekong river was intercepted at Cam Son, on the Ba Rai river. Five boats full of U.S.-puppet troops were sunk or set afire. A belittled rescue party was also intercepted. Another reinforcement from Long Trung lost the company in the lead and one H.U. 1A helicopter was shot down.

On July 30, 100 helicopters dropped a U.S. brigade and a battalion of Marines on Long Trien, near Binh and Tan Huu.

(Continued page 7)

SINCE LAST SUMMER - AUTUMN

MILITARY OPERATIONS ON HIGHWAY No 4 A BRILLIANT VICTORY OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM P.L.A.F.

HIGHWAY 4 linking Saigon with the provinces in the Mekong Delta is a strategic road. Early in 1966 the American aggressors threw in two brigades of U.S. Infantry Division 9: one stationed at Rach Kien (Cho Lon province), and the other at Binh Duc (My Tho province). Like the G.I.'s at Rach Kien, those at Binh Duc also suffered heavy casualties at the hand of the

guerrillas.

In the first half of 1967 alone, 1,220 U.S. troops were killed and wounded in this base near My Tho town. The enemy tried to launch many operations in an attempt to break the encirclement around Binh Duc and the posts along Highway 4.

The operation carried out by 10 U.S.-puppet battalions in the first 19 days of May

ended with over 900 casualties (among them 450 G.I.'s), 6 planes downed, 10 naval craft and 1 military vehicle destroyed. This was the first blow dealt at the aggressors.

A HARDER BLOW

ON July 8, 1967, the My Tho army-men and people began a series of attacks on "key pacification" areas along Highway

4, destroying many "strategic hamlets" and hammering a crushing blow at the enemy's defence lines.

On July 17, they continued their assault, held the highway for three days. Nearly all the enemy's communication lines in the province were stormed. On Highway 4 alone, the 70 km-long section from My Tho ferry to Tan Huu (50 km